

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
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INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
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AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, LT, MZ
SUBJECT: LEAVUA JOHANTHAN'S STATE VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

REF: MASERU 1766

SUMMARY.LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER JOHATHAN'S SIX DAY VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE
GENERATED A LOT OF RHETORIC BUT APPARENTLY LITTLE IN THE WAY
OF SUBSTANCE. COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED FOR CULTURE,
TRADE AND AIR TRANSPORT. JOHANTHAN WAS CLEARLY PLEASED THAT HE
WAS GIVEN HEAD OF STATE TREATMENT AS THE GPRM PULLED OUT ALL
STOPS TO IMPRESS THEIR VISITORS. THE VISIT GAVE
JOHANTHAN A CHANCE TO BURNISH HIS IMAGE AS AN AFRICAN LEADER,
AND GAVE
MACHEL THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE MOZAMBIQUE'S CONCERN ABOUT
DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. JOHANTHAN RECEIVED MOZAMBIQUE'S STANDARD PROGRAM FOR
VISITS BY HEADS OF STATE: ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CEREMONIES, VISITS
TO FACTORIES (PETROLEUM REFINERY AND FURNITURE PLANT). COMMUNAL
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VILLAGES AND AFRICAN SUBURBS, THE MUSEUM OF THE REVOLUTION AND AN
EVENING OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE. MACHEL GAVE A STATE BANQUET THE FIRST
NIGHT AND JOHANTHAN WAS THE HOST FOR A DINNER ON HIS LAST NIGHT
IN MAPUTO. OUT OF TOWN STOPS INCLUDED A TRIP TO MACHEL'S SEASIDE
RETREAT AT BILENE (100 MILES FROM MAPUTO)
AND A UPCOUNTRY TRIP THE LAST TWO DAYS WHICH FEATURED THE
DAM AT CABORA BASSA, THE RECENTLY NATIONALIZED COAL MINE AT

MOATIZE, AND
AN EVENING IN MOZAMBIQUE'S SECOND CITY-BEIRA.

3. PRESS REPORTS MENTION ONLY ONE WORKING SESSION BETWEEN THE TWO A "PROTOCOL OF COOPERATION" FOR CULTURE TRADE, AND CIVIL AVIATION. THE CONDITION OF LESOTHO AND MOZAMBIQUE MINE WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS MENTIONED IN PASSING DURING SEVERAL OF THE DISCOURSES OF THE TWO LEADERS AND JONATHAN TOLD OF HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AS A EMPLOYEE OF A SA MINING COMPANY FROM 1933-7. HOWEVER, NO ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE OF ANY PLANS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR MIGRANT LABOR IN SA.

4. WHILE JONATHAN DID RAIL AGAINST "IMPERIALISTS" A NUMBER OF TIMES HIS STATEMENT WERE GENERALLY MODERATE IN TONE, THE LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THE DIFFICULT POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC POSITION OF LESOTHO, BUT PLEDGED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ALL SOUTHERN AFRICA. JONATHAN DID NOT MENTION BY NAME EITHER THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OR SA'S ANC IN ANY OF HIS PUBLISHED STATEMENTS. THIS IS EVEN MORE SURPRISING AS ANC PRESIDENT OLIVER TAMBO WAS THE GUEST OF HONOR AT JONATHAN'S DINNER FOR MACHEL ON AUGUST 26. WHILE MACHEL VOICED MOZAMBIQUE'S SUPPORT FOR THE ANC ON OTHER OCCASION DURING JONATHAN'S VISIT, HE TOO WAS SILENT ON THE ANC AT THE DINNER WHICH FEATURED TAMBO. JONATHAN REPEADLY CALL ED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE.

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5. MACHEL CALLED LESOTHO "AN ISLAND OF RESISTANCE IN THE SEA OF APARTHEID" AND PLEDGED MOZAMBIQUE'S SUPPORT IN THE "COMMON STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM, COLONIALISM, AND IMPERIALISM." TAILORING HIS STATEMENTS TO THE TASTE OF HIS GUESTS, MACHEL SAID THAT MOZAMBIQUE DOES NOT ACCEPT OLD OR NEW EXPLOITERS OF THE CONTINENT WHO SEEK TO UNDERMINE UNITY BECAUSE MOZAMBIQUE REFUSES TO ACCEPT ANY TYPE OF ECONOMIC OR IDEOLOGICAL TUTELAGE. THE GPRM'S ONLY ORIENTATIONS ARE THOSE WHICH ARISE FROM THE ASPIRATIONS AND THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE.

6. COMMENT: IT SEEMS THAT A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. THE LEADERS HAD A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER, AND TO BUILD A FEW SUPERFICIAL LINKS. AN AFRICAN DIPLOMAT WHO IS RELATED TO SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE LESOTHO DELEGATION TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT BOTH SIDES WERE PLEASEED WITH THE ENCOUNTER AND THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, WHICH WAS MAINLY CEREMONIAL, HAD EXCEEDED THE LESOTHO'S EXPECTATIONS. WE DO NOT EXPECT MUCH FROM THE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS AND AIR SERVICE BETWEEN MASERU AND MAPUTO IS A LONG WAY FROM REALIZATION. WE DO NOT KNOW IF JONATHAN OR MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY MET PRIVATELY WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

(CUBAN, SOVIETS, ETC) HERE IN MAPUTO.

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